

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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## Alumni Are Working In Presidential Primaries

by Pat Killian  
Staff Writer

It's an election year, and MBA graduates are out in force contributing to many campaign trails. We at *The Bell Ringer* have tracked down two of the school's outstanding alumni to ask about their experiences on the road. Nick Luna ('05, McCain) and Drake Jarman ('02, Huckabee) tell about their roles in the presidential campaigns and give advice to the student body on becoming involved.

**Bell Ringer:** How did you get involved with your candidate's campaign?

**Nick Luna:** I've only been working on the McCain campaign for four days now [February 9th, the day of McCain's rally at MBA]. Fred Thompson is my grandfather, and I started on his campaign. My grandfather and John McCain are very good friends, and that's how I got the job. **Drake Jarman:** I got in contact with Chip Saltsman [Huckabee's campaign manager] my senior year in college, and he sent me to work in South Carolina for the Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer. After that campaign was over, I came here to see if Senator Frist would run, but he decided not to. Then Governor Huckabee hired Chip Saltsman and brought me along.

**BR:** What is your position in the campaign?

**Nick Luna:** I'm Lead Advance, so I help with the set design and layout of the event.

**Drake Jarman:** I'm Governor Huckabee's travel aid or bodyman (it's the same position), basically traveling with the governor wherever he goes. I'm usually within five feet of him. [While it may sound easy, Drake's role has proved to be quite dangerous at times: at a press conference in January, a reporter knocked him to the ground to get a better shot of Gov. Huckabee; the man was quickly escorted out of the conference by security.]

**BR:** Have you always wanted to be involved in politics?

**Nick Luna:** Absolutely not. It definitely won't be my job in the future, but traveling with the campaign is fun, and the job is good money.

**Drake Jarman:** Campaigning is definitely something I always wanted to do. I grew up watching Senator Frist, and that's actually why I became interested in politics. I watched him running for the first time when I was in the third or fourth grade, and I became really interested in the system. Then I just kept my eyes open to see how I could get involved.

**BR:** In high school, did you feel that

MBA had an active enough political atmosphere?

**Nick Luna:** There are those who are really involved and those who have no clue what's going on. There needs to be a medium, not super geeky about it but also not totally clueless. Mr. Coverstone does a good job teaching government, but it's not required in the curriculum, so it's a little hard to get involved.

**Drake Jarman:** I think it's great. The only problem for me was that, because of the way I did my foreign languages, I couldn't take Government my senior with Mr. Coverstone; I really wish I had planned that out better as a freshman. MBA definitely prepared me well for politics. Right now we're pulling 18 to 20-hour days, and MBA definitely gave me the work ethic to handle it.

**BR:** How can high school students best become informed about and play a part in the campaigns and government in general?

**Nick Luna:** In trying to get involved in high school, sometimes it's not what you know but who you know. But if

you become an organizer at your school, you definitely get recognized by these campaigns. Also, you have a much better chance as a student of getting involved at the local level, like mayor or city council.

**Drake Jarman:** I would say get out there and get involved with the local races and any of these races coming up; I know Senator Alexander is up for re-election, and there will be two races in that – the Republican side and the Democrat side. That will be a great one to get involved with. I started off just putting up signs and doing other grunt work. So just get out there and volunteer. Campaigns set up call banks and put together mail-outs every week, and they definitely look for lots of volunteers, especially of MBA caliber.



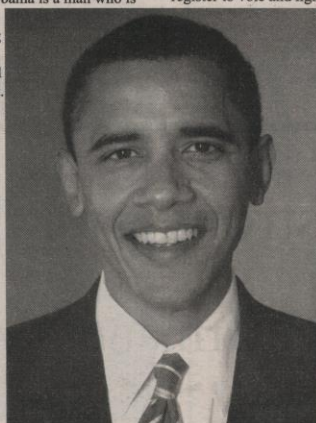
Drake Jarman and Governor Huckabee

## The Fierce Urgency of Now: Obama Promises Change

by Rashá Harvey  
Staff Writer

Our nation is in a state of transition with plenty of challenges to tackle. Income inequality is at a level that calls for urgent action as wealth has become increasingly concentrated in the pockets of too few. Our public schools need radical restructuring as they attempt to fulfill the mandates of No Child Left Behind. The I-35 bridge collapse in Minnesota indicates that our public infrastructure needs serious attention. In the wealthiest country in the world, over 45 million people are still without healthcare coverage. America's cities grapple with chronic homelessness, violent crime, and a shrinking tax base. The American Dream of owning a home is now hampered by the present mortgage crisis. Our next president faces the daunting task of tackling these problems. He or she must transcend the partisan rhetoric that has gridlocked our nation's capital for decades. In my opinion, Barack Obama is the only candidate who can lead our nation in these perilous times.

Barack Obama is a man who is the epitome of America's melting pot. He is of mixed African and Caucasian descent. Raised in Hawaii, Indonesia, and Kansas, Barack is a man who is objective in his perceptions about individuals. His life experiences can help reshape our somewhat "orientalist" approach to foreign policy. As a young man, he used his legal skills acquired at Harvard Law School to help underserved Chicagoans



Senator Barack Obama

register to vote and fight for their civil rights. In the Illinois senate, he sponsored legislation to strengthen ethics in the legislative body. Often Barack engaged in serious discussions with his Republican colleagues to foster progress. We need a leader who can work in a bi-partisan fashion to achieve positive policy objectives. I have been inspired by the movement Barack has helped create. More people

in my generation are participating in the political process than ever before. Last week, several of my friends and I were campaigning for Obama in north Nashville. We discussed his proposals with several residents in the area. They were surprised that a bunch of eighteen-year-olds could keep them actively engaged while talking passionately about universal pre-kindergarten, an increase in community block development grants to jump start development in impoverished areas, and the continuation of Hope VI allotments to cities such as Nashville, continuing the building of decent and safe affordable housing.

Everyday I am amazed by the increasing support Barack Obama is receiving. The fierce urgency of now calls for immediate action. We must not let labels keep us locked in a box. Instead, we must put our differences aside and move in the direction toward actively solving the problems affecting our beloved nation.





## THE BELL RINGER

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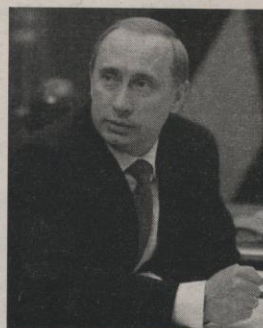
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# Beyond the Hill: Russia and the United States (Part 1)

By Aaron Lutkowitz  
Staff Editor/ist



Vladimir Putin

allowed to take part." This allowed Putin to win over 70% of the vote unfairly, which he has used as political leverage against rival political factions.

Even the presidential elections in Russia this year, in which Putin cannot run, are quickly becoming undemocratic. Putin has selected Dmitri Mendelev from his party, the Kremlin, to run in the election. Recently, their main competition, Kasyanov, was accused by the Kremlin of forging signatures to run as a candidate and was thrown out of the election. Yet the *New York Times* noted that, "Mr. Kasyanov has said that the signatures are valid and that the Kremlin ordered the commission to block his candidacy as a means of ensuring the election of Dmitri Mendelev." If Russia does not make democratic reforms, especially in elections, then the United States will continue to have a strained relationship with Russia.

Perhaps a more divisive issue than Russia's lack of

democracy is its international goals which are in continual opposition to the United States. Currently the most significant digression between the United States and Russia is over Iran. The United States and other Western countries are trying to pass sanctions through the United Nations to limit Iran's nuclear weapons program, but Russia is against these sanctions and has the power to veto any sanction proposed by the United Nations. The *Los Angeles Times* laments that, "Growing friction between the United States and Russia over Iran is only part of an increasingly difficult relationship that many diplomats and experts consider to be in its worst shape since the end of the Cold War, and at risk of further deterioration."

Another area of hostility is Russia's oil ties to Europe. Russia is monopolizing the oil and natural gas trade with Europe, which causes European dependence on Russia. This leverage for Russia forces Europe to follow Russia's political and economic goals instead of those of their ally the United States. The *Heritage Foundation*, a conservative think tank, reported that, "Russia is consolidating its grip on oil and gas – the economic lifeblood of Europe. Such dependence could negatively affect transatlantic relations... [and] Europe's strategic shift away from the United States will continue unabated." The United States views Russia negatively, as the manipulator, in respect to Europe. Russia's policies are continually shifting away from democracy and from the foreign policy of the United States.

In the second part of this series on Russia, I interview Mr. Mark Pettus, son of Mrs. Pettus, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade English teacher at MBA. He has lived in Russia for eight years.

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## Brian Sends A Postcard from Eton

by Brian Swenson  
Features Editor

My journey to Eton began in a rather rocky fashion. I arrived at London Heathrow Airport only to be detained by Customs Officials for close to an hour because I was under eighteen with "no apparent destination."

They then proceeded to give me a picture book explaining why I was being detained. I was surprised to see the cartoon kid in the book with such a wide smile upon his face, as I was annoyed and tired. Fortunately, my soon-to-be House Master was contacted and explained that he was waiting for me after baggage claim. I was hoping that not everything afterwards would be so complicated.

After the fascination of sitting in the left front seat of a car as a passenger rather than a driver, I arrived at Eton College.

I was assigned one of the very few empty rooms in the school, in the Godolphin House, which was built in 1712. I have been most awed by the antiquity of the buildings here, since every building seems to have been constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century or before, as in the case of the chapel and old school room, dorms, and dining hall (which probably housed a play of Shakespeare's) of the school, which were completed in the mid-1400's. The many etchings of names and phrases on these walls are also fascinating, as people like Percy B. Shelley have carved their own names in the woodwork.

Classes here start at 8:40 or 9, depending on whether there is chapel in the morning (all students are required to attend on certain days), and are either 35 or 40 minutes long, with classes being held on Monday through Saturday. One big difference in the classes is that for many classes, there are two teachers covering different material within the same subject. The teachers are referred to as "beaks" and are addressed as "Sir."

The beaks all wear white bow ties, black waistcoats, and suits, while students wear shirts with detachable collars, ties of sorts, black waistcoats,

black tailsuits, and black pants. If students are King's Scholars, which they attain by scoring very highly on entrance tests to Eton, they live in the original dormitories of the school and wear special garments over the uniform. Furthermore, students who are House Captains or are in a special society, called Pop, wear grey waistcoats and tailsuits or any style waistcoats that they wish.

The main difference from MBA is that Eton is a boarding school. It takes some time to grow accustomed to boarding because students are at school 24/7, but boarding still has its advantages. One thing I particularly like is having classes at night around 5:00 p.m.

Besides half of them being named Henry or Charles, the students are fairly similar to MBA boys. Not all are geniuses, but they all seem to excel in writing and speaking English, even though they have little homework (or E.W.) as compared to MBA students. One boy is reading *Great Expectations* and *The Great Gatsby* over one of the weeklong breaks, which are given every month, as are three-day weekends.

Eton, like MBA, has been trying recently to attract boys from all over England and all over the world. Eton had only thirty feeder schools about thirty years ago, but now that number has increased dramatically. There are boys from Scotland, Wales, Africa, Asia, and other parts of Europe, so Eton is growing into a much more diverse and unique school.

Some students have a PS3 or an XBOX in their rooms and even have Madden 08, because a few students are very "keen on" American football. We even watched the Super Bowl, despite the fact that it did not end until 3:00 in the morning at Eton.

The accent and expressions are, of course, different. They do, in fact, say "brilliant" and "absolutely" quite a bit. My experience here has been "absolutely brilliant" so far, and there will be more to come later.



Eton College, 20 miles west of central London

## Dr. Clements' Works on Vacation

by Neil Ryan  
Staff Writer

This past Christmas vacation, Dr. Clements took a trip to France with her two children, Katie and William. Because both are artists, the trip centered

mainly on the artistic history and the modern art movements which started in France.

In Normandy, she visited the Rouen Cathedral, which was painted multiple times by the famous artist, Claude Monet; she also saw the many beach towns in Normandy that were the subjects of several painters' works. From Normandy,



Rouen Cathedral in Normandy

Dr. Clements travelled to Paris, where she toured the many museums, residences, and studios of famous artists, such as Picasso. They also visited the region of Provence, where artist Vincent Van Gogh resided for a time in St. Remy's sanitarium and produced hundreds of paintings of the grounds. In Provence she also visited more Mediterranean scenes used as subjects by Picasso and other famous artists.

In addition to studying the artistic history of France, Dr. Clements and her family visited several World War II sites such as the beach in Normandy where the Allied forces made their invasion on

D-Day. The battlefield had been preserved and was dotted with the bunkers and craters which had been used during the war. She also visited the museum at

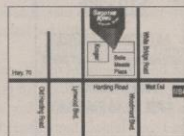
Arromanches, which focused on the British construction of a port which they could assemble upon landing and use to help tanks ashore.

According to Dr. Clements, her favorite parts of the trip were the mere atmosphere of France, which

she found to be "a painter's pallet," and the farmhouses where they stayed during their vacation, which date back to the times which she came to study, and which served dinners that were "extraordinarily delicious!"

Dr. Clements claims that this trip has greatly influenced her teaching because it gave her a new perspective on the history and culture of France. The trip also helped her to gain additional knowledge about important aspects of her subject, specifically important historical events such as the French Revolution, World War II, and the development of modern European culture.

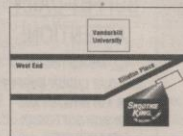
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## Science Olympiad Marches Into Competition

by Chunbum Park  
Staff Writer

MBA's Big Red Army, Science Olympiad Regiment, launches its regional expedition next Saturday, February 23rd. Despite a large number of deserters in the last few weeks, the Big Red Army remains operational with 15 active personnel and several reserve units.

The operation *Scientific Freedom* will be guided by the Joint Command of Dr. Marro (B division, gr.7-9) and Dr. Dickens (C division, gr. 9-12).

A survey was conducted on 9 boys to estimate the combat readiness of our Red troops. Five of the nine soldiers knew the exact number of days remaining, but only 2 admitted being prepared well, while 2 more claimed they were doing "ok". However, seven pledged to work hard over the 4-day Presidents' Day weekend to complete their assignments.

While this state of the army may shock some, it is old news to many. Ever since the Big Red Army began as an all-volunteer force in 2003 (following the successes of an experimental unit in 2002), it faced the problem of overstretch in motivation and direction.

However, MBA's AVF has performed in a superior manner to most other drafted "scientaries" and kept an amazing state record (div C) of three 3rd places, one 2nd place, and one 1st place (leading to the national ranking of around 40th out of 60 teams).

The Big Red Army plans to

maintain its presence at the national level and, beginning this year, has gone through major changes in its chain of command and combat tactics.

The Big Red Army imported the research methods of the speech/debate world, and it now assigns individuals to research a few events and produce study guides for everyone's use. The Commanders categorized the events into several topics and assigned captains to lead the troops in their research.

The central command aimed to fix many of the problems inherent in an all-volunteer-force. The speech/debate model would increase transparency in how the "scientary" personnel train. This transparency would produce peer pressure and reduce procrastination. Most importantly, the transparency would help Dr. Marro and Dr. Dickens to make appropriate decisions in their selection of team members and timing of events.

The study guides would also allow flexibility in case of time conflict or absence in the competition by allowing either another active soldier or a reserve unit to prepare quickly and handle the situation.

Also, the commanders began early in the year with the team and held regular weekly meetings during break for the first time in the organization's history.

However, things have not gone well with the new system. When asked

"Has your group captain been guiding you in preparation?" One replied, "Yes", another replied, "Some", and seven said, "Not at all".

The blame should not fall entirely on the captains but on everyone. Stated one captain, "Nobody has really asked me for help."

It seems that while there was the discussion of conducting research under the speech/debate model, not many people understood what the plan really was. Asserted one participant, "Huh? Speech-world research framework?" Since the captains failed to assign research tasks, there was no direction that the Red soldiers could follow, and, without any works being submitted, the system broke down.

The weekly organizational conventions were ineffective, also. The shortness of the break period, the intermittent class meetings and assemblies, and the meeting's voluntary nature and the resultant partial attendance allowed only a little real preparation - like pep talks or tournament updates from Dr. Dickens and Dr. Marro.

Both coaches agree that the MBA administration needs to take Science Olympiad more seriously. Other schools offer Science Olympiad as a class or a regular, extracurricular activity. This means that those schools enjoy complete attendance and avoid problems like "trying to practice but my partner's not here" and "he and I wasted

time on the same thing."

When asked, "Would a regular after-school schedule be effective?" Five students said, "Yes", two, "No", and one, "Unsure." One e-mail supporting this idea read, "It does not have to be a full ...research time, but more focused and smaller." One of the two who opposed the idea typed, "Most people (aka athletes and debaters) would...be forced to quit..."

Despite these setbacks, most of the Big Red Army remains hopeful. When asked, "Do you think we'll win the regional?" Eight replied, "Yes," and six felt that MBA would win the state to proceed to the national.

The e-mail survey continued with the question, "Which are MBA's weakest events?" The respondents came up with the following four (there were many more): Cell Bio (2), Write It Do It (2), Sounds of Music (2), and Disease Detective (2).

The strongest events came out to be the following: Chem Lab (4), Five-Star Science (3), and Forensics (3). Vic, one of the Division C captains, said in his interview that MBA fared better in academic events rather than building events.

When asked, "How will the changes to this year's events, deletion, and addition of events affect MBA's performance this year?" Two said it will help, one said it won't, while the rest remained unsure.

[Of the people surveyed, 6 were veterans (one 4 yrs, two 3 yrs, one 2 yrs, and two 1.5 yrs), and 3 were novices.]

## The Bonefish Grill Fulfills Its Promise

by Michael Downing  
Entertainment Editor

On very rare occasions, be it for some sort of family celebration or special event, am I able to enjoy the finer cuisines that Middle Tennessee has to offer. Thanks to the return of my mother from a successful business trip, The Bonefish Grill was my most recent venture to a really nice restaurant.

Before even walking into the building I could tell this place was high class. Comfortable lounging chairs outside the front door, each equipped with a personal heater, made the brief waiting period nothing short of a pleasure, despite the piercing cold of this particular February evening. Soon enough, our name was called, and we were escorted into the building by the hostess, who was already listing off the specials of the night, each sounding more delicious than the last.

The ambiance inside is remarkable. Contemporary jazz, dim (but not too dim) lighting, and an array of modern art (or so I assume) make each diner feel as if he or she has stepped out of everyday life and into a five-star hotel resort. Needless to say, first impressions promised good things to come.

Now, on to the actual business. The service was fastidious. The moment one of my family emptied his drink,

another waiter/waitress was on hand to offer a refill. Our actual waiter was friendly and extremely knowledgeable of the menu, suggesting numerous dishes and clearing up any questions that the parents may have had (how spicy? how big? etc...). We basically ordered every special that was available, resulting in the following: a plate of spicy coconut shrimp, lobster tails, and a seafood pasta, all to be shared around the table.

As expected, the food was delicious and filling, but our waiter was able to somehow tempt us into dessert (something rarely enjoyed on any Downing family outing). We each had coffee, and we shared an extremely large bananas Foster which disappeared before our eyes.

I left this restaurant more satisfied than I have ever been with any meal (no joke). I was completely blown away! My only complaint is the price, but I guess you get what you pay for.

So, if you ever find yourself in the middle of Cool Springs with some extra money to spend (or you are with your parents who are not quite informed of the restaurant's prices), check out The Bonefish Grill.

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# Michael and Alan go to the Movies: Presidents' Day Edition

by Michael Downing and Alan Schulman  
Entertainment Editors



Javier Bardem in *No Country for Old Men*

**The Bucket List:** As much as I expected this movie to be directed toward a much older audience, I can honestly say people of any age can expect to enjoy this film. Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman show all of us that actors, like teachers, only get better with age.

**Untraceable:** This movie had a combination of the creative, yet gruesome means of murder found in movies like *Saw* and *Hostel*, and the edge-of-your-seat flavor common to most suspense thrillers. The identity of the serial killer is initially kept secret, but, once revealed, this killer actually has a motive relevant to the plot as a whole. We definitely recommend this movie to any fan of the horror genre.

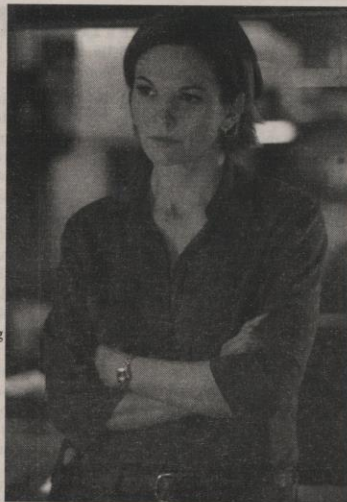
**Meet the Spartans:** My goodness... This was the worst movie since *Pirates of the Caribbean 3* (and we all know how bad that was). The producers just took the idea of "stupid comedy" too far, leaving the audience with a plotless, ridiculously unfunny comedy that makes anyone watching embarrassed to be in the theater. Way to go!!

**No Country for Old Men:** It is indisputable that this movie had its fair share of nail-biting

suspense. However, we feel the hype, even hysteria, this movie received was unjustified. The movie's plot would have greatly benefited from the removal of the superfluous scenes featuring Tommy Lee Jones which were put in just for the sake of featuring an all-star actor. The pneumatic gun the antagonist totes around, however, is definitely worth checking out.

**Cloverfield:** There have been a lot of complaints about the first-person filming of this "Godzilla comes to America" thriller, and, honestly, watching this movie makes the viewers feel extremely motion sick. However, the temporary stomachache is well worth it, as this film has so much to offer. The plot was superb (except for the ending), special effects were convincing, and the actors (all relatively new to the movie scene) were phenomenal. I just couldn't turn away...

**Fool's Gold:** Even as a romantic comedy evoking low expectations, this movie was a disappointment. The "treasure hunt" plot carried out by a couple on the verge of divorce was contrived and boring. We were not inspired to pull for the couple to stay together, which means it failed in the romance aspect, and we did not laugh a single time, marking its failure as a comedy. If you have absolutely nothing to do, still don't see this awful movie.



Diane Lane in *Untraceable*



Daniel Day-Lewis in *There Will Be Blood*

## There Will Be Winners

by Will Holt  
Staff Writer

The night is finally here! The most important night in Hollywood - besides Britney Spears' 8th pregnancy. It is the 80th Annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, and this year is definitely going to be interesting.

The Golden Globes were unable to avoid the pressure from the Writer's Guild of America, but negotiations with the writers are complete, and the Academy assures us that the Big Night will go on.

This has been a stupendous year for film, and it's hard to avoid this year's leading contenders. While *Transformers* and *300* were "entertaining," you won't catch them on the Best Picture list.

Actually, the two grabbed two nods for special effects, while *Transformers* also can be found in the sound mixing and editing categories.

In artistic areas, *No Country for Old Men*, *There Will Be Blood*, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *The Assassination of Jesse James*, and *Atonement* fill the cinematography category and the art direction award is predicted to be a close one between *Sweeney Todd*, *There Will Be Blood*, and *Atonement*.

The acting this year was some of the best of the 21st century and, to me, is what made this year so great. Filling the supporting actor category are the likes of the sensational Tom Wilkinson, the classic Hal Holbrook, and the breakthrough Casey Affleck. But this year is all about Javier Bardem for his role in *No Country for Old Men* - possibly the scariest interpretation of a maniac ever recorded. Many critics have said it is the best performance of 2007.

The supporting actresses are equally strong, with Oscar veteran Cate Blanchett pushing as the leading choice right now. But there is a tough competition from *American Gangster*'s Ruby Dee and *Gone Baby Gone*'s Amy Ryan. Two powerful performances from Tilda Swinton in *Michel Clayton* and the very young Saoirse Ronan of *Atonement* should not be counted out either.

George Clooney, Tommy Lee Jones, Viggo Mortensen, and Johnny Depp fill up the leading actor pool, but this year's front runner is the fantastic and sensational Daniel Day-Lewis for his portrayal of an oil prospector in *There Will Be Blood*.

The leading actress Oscar is predicted to be a battle between Julie

Christie for her role as a woman with Alzheimer's and Marion Cotillard for her beautiful portrayal of the French singer Edith Piaf in *La Vie En Rose*.

If you did not see *Ratatouille*, I recommend you see this crazy tale of a cooking rat because it will most likely win the award for Best Animated Film.

There were some controversies over the nominations, as always, and the Best Song and Foreign Language film categories got the most attention this year. Eddie Vedder's soulful soundtrack for *Into the Wild* was left off the list, while France's *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* and Romania's *4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days* were left standing outside the Kodak theater.

The Best Director category is close this year as well. With the Coen brothers being the favorite to win, could *The Diving Bell's* Julian Schnabel or *Michael Clayton's* Tony Gilroy subtle yet immensely affective directing styles pull the upset? Some say Paul Thomas Andersen deserves it for his skill on *There Will Be Blood*, while *Juno's* Jason Reitman made us all laugh with his timing and casual approach.

This year's Best Picture race is the big talk. These five films are all sensational, entertaining, engaging, spirited, but most of all different. And that's what Hollywood has been looking for. The crowd-pleasing *Juno* and the smart and adult *Michael Clayton* are in the category, but many critics have shown these movies Best-Picture love. The big competition is between the Coens' *No Country for Old Men*, Paul Thomas Andersen's *There Will Be Blood*, and Joe Wright's *Atonement*. These three films have been the most rewarded during the award season. With *There Will Be Blood* getting 14 Best Picture awards, *Atonement* winning the Golden Globe for Best Picture and the British Academy of Film's Best Picture, and *No Country for Old Men* winning over 37 Best Picture awards and the Screen Actor's Guild award for Best Ensemble Cast, this year's competition is totally unpredictable.

I am going by my gut and my favorites this year, but to check out more in department analysis and reviews go to "theoscarigloo.com" for more predictions.

Enjoy the films! The Oscars are on ABC on Sunday, February 24.



## Ninth Grade News

by Andrew Powell  
Staff Writer

I am pleased to say that the freshman class has had a smooth beginning of the second semester. First and foremost, as of the writing of this article, the class has had ZERO honor offences this school year—a commendable achievement, which says much about the character of the class. Similar excellence has been exhibited in other pursuits, as well.

First off, away from the Hill, church-league basketball is the premier frosh pastime. On any given Saturday, talented church-ballers flood the Calvary United Methodist Church court. With the tournament quickly approaching, the Westminster team seems poised for a championship run, led by MBA freshmen Joe Riegle and Hayes McCord, but will have to first get by First Pres. (represented by Warren Smith, Brad Swain, Will Baker, Nick Kohler, Walton Macey, and Scott Gould) and Covenant (boasting the likes of Alex Hunt, Alex Austin, Lee Shrebnick, and Tom Markham). Covenant's "all-American" point guard Alex Hunt, when asked about his team's season, said, "The team has had a rough start, but we're the George Mason of church-ball this season....we'll win it all."

As far as individual accomplishments, William Flautt,

Connor Pagnani, Ryan Shepherd, Philip Spelman, and Max Werthan were all recently inducted into the Junior Honor Society. Alex Luna, Harrison Luna, and Jimmie Anderson all received Silver awards at this year's Scholastic Art Awards. Their artwork was exhibited on January 27th at Cheekwood. Jack Warne became an Eagle Scout, and Ian Sharbel is approaching that major milestone, as well. Cooper Thomas is playing guitar regularly for the band at MBA sporting events.

Athletically, the basketball team completed its season with a 10-9 record. Freshmen swimmers Chase Lovelace and Jarvis Werkhaven finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in the state swimming championships in the 100 breaststroke on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, freshmen play vital roles on both the wrestling and rifle teams. As each of these aforementioned sports comes to a close, lacrosse, soccer, and track are just beginning.

In Policy Debate, Jack Hallemann and Chunsoo Park represented the MBA squad well at Glenbrook, going 6-1, losing only in the semi-finals. A team of Jesse Suh and Max Werthan also made it to the quarter-finals with a 5-2 record. Within the realm of speaking, the Freshman Speech Competition is approaching and promises to be awful.

## Junior Class Speaks Up

by Fadi Pulous  
Staff Writer

With Junior year on its way out and Senior year on its way, the class of '09 is preparing itself for the last year and 1 ½ quarter of its time on the Hill. This article will vary in topic from the college process to the election to 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch.

The middle of January marked the official beginning of the college process with a college night for the junior class. The admissions directors from Vanderbilt University and Gettysburg College along with the college counseling staff gave an introductory lecture to the junior class. After some discussions with some other juniors, I was able to come up with a small list of some of the most popular colleges for the class of '09. Of course, the SEC schools were a big hit, with UT, UGA, and Vanderbilt leading the way, along with talk of Alabama and Auburn as well. Some of the juniors are looking forward to venturing out west, including Jimmy Balser, who seems to be a big fan of Colorado College. Will Holt has been looking at Northwestern and feels he'd fit in quite well in the Evanston community. Some other southern schools include Clemson, Davidson, Emory, UNC, and UVA. I've also heard talk of a group of people considering potential California schools such as UCLA, USC, and Cal-Berkeley. But by far the most popular school seems to be Vanderbilt, which should be expecting a strong applicant pool from next year's senior class. Look for future articles in which the students specify their choices.

The elections have also stirred up a lot of discussion among the junior class. The top 3 candidates, from most to least popular, are Barack Obama, John McCain, and Mike Huckabee. However, there has been a growing faction of Ron Paul supporters in the junior class. In fact, the amount of Ron Paul support has grown 300% from 1 to 3 people since the most recent assembly. Keep it up, you staunch, non-conforming, government-hating rebels! Barack Obama has taken the school and the junior class by surprise,

gathering up a lot of the support from the junior class members, prompting even some known Republicans to vote Barack. On a different note, however, Hillary Clinton has unanimously been chosen as the most unpopular candidate of this year's election. It seems no one in the junior class can stand her unnecessary melodrama and socialist views.

Politics and college aside, 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch has become a huge part of the junior class' chit-chat. Several students have decided to put forth some new ideas in order to better help Sage in continuing to produce delicious food. Sorry, Matt Ractliffe! As much as you love Sage right now, I'm sure we can all help make it better. Our first point of discussion, Matt Ractliffe, known jelly bandit, has been decimating the jelly reserves, forcing Will Holt to go hungry. Oi-vei Matt.

Nick Williams suggests, "MBA has a surplus population of bad, camo-wearing, truck-driving, skoal-chewin' hunters, so maybe once a week we should let them loose on the squirrels, birds, and occasional grizzly bear that roam the campus and have a good ole southern feast cooked up for us in Frist Hall." Thank you, Nick, for that delicious suggestion. I'm sure we'll make it happen.

Owen Lipscomb also had something to say. Owen's tired of the pinto beans—he wants more seasoning and flavoring on those beans. You tell 'em, Owen! Wesley Johnson claims an organ (body part) was found in someone's soup. This comment wasn't really a suggestion, but Wesley just wanted to be heard. Brandon Dockery wants Wendy's to drop by a "truckload" of burgers and fries once a week so we can take a break from the usual. Will Andrews suggests the same, except with Cheeseburger Charley's.

Well, that about does it for this month's article. Don't forget to come out and support the Juniors and everyone else in the upcoming spring sports.

## Sophomore News

by Daniel White  
Staff Writer

2008 has so far been a great year for the class of 2010. The sophomores have been exemplifying the three aspects of MBA's ideals to the fullest extent. Several sophomores such as Turner Henderson, Steven Gaittens, Ben Sutter, Denzel Caldwell, Andrew D'Aquila, Kyle Brantley, Nathan Dewitt, and Dylan Petraitis have been helping out with Preston Taylor Homes, Soup Kitchen, and Special Olympics, led by the sophomores' vice-president Drew Daniele.

Also, sophomores have been very influential athletically, such as Holden Mobley, Tyler Paslick and Luke Colbert who have become very familiar faces on the court during the basketball season. David Dalton and Daniel Todd are powerful athletes in ice-hockey and wrestling, respectively.

Other sophomores participating in sports include Brad Bars, John Lowe, Will Henry, Michael Seitz, and Alex

Apple in basketball; Denney Sandwith, Connor Hastings, Oliver Oldacre, and John Andrews in bowling; Robinson Hunt, Aaron Hays, and Adrian Carey in ice-hockey; Alex Fettroll, Mitchell Lukens, and Jichao Deng in riflery; Seth Akers-Campbell, Rob Higham, Alvin Kim, Jack Murfree, and Corbin Williams in swimming, with Michael Reid diving; and Jonathan Golab, Tommy Harless, and Charles Herron in wrestling.

As course registration came to a close, the sophomores showed their academic prowess by choosing several honors and advanced placement classes. In addition to academics, athletics, and being good citizens of the community, numerous sophomores participated in MBA's annual, Winter Band Concert on February 10th.

The sophomores continue to make a name at MBA by hosting events such as carwashes and movie nights.

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## Mr. Spiegl Tells About Envirothon

by Chunbum Park  
Staff Writer

Envirothon is a competition that deals with forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and real-world environmental issues. Canon is the main sponsor for the competition and provides teams that succeed on the national level with awards such as scholarships, cash prizes, and electronic products. Schools must win (and earn wooden plaques) at the local and the state levels in order to compete at the national level.

State foresters, wildlife officials, and agricultural agents provide oversight for the competition. Teams take tests on each of the categories. In addition to the written questions, i.e. true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blanks, all tests also involve practical identification of furs, trees, tracks, soil types and characteristics, and aquatic quality.

MBA's Envirothon has performed quite well in past years, winning the region 4 out of the past six years and placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> in the state since entering the competition in 2002.

MBA Enviroletes keep in shape by taking tree walks (e.g. in Warner Parks) to practice identifying trees based on their leaves, barks, shapes, color, etc. The Enviroletes also indulge in Mr. Spiegl's collection of real and artificial furs, scats, skulls, and foot tracks.

Mr. Spiegl invites professionals in the environment-related fields (e.g. a forester last year) to deliver lectures and demonstrate practical outdoor applications.

Mr. Spiegl wants more student participation. From this reporter's perspective, Envirothon is both more and less demanding in its own ways – students attend fall, winter, and spring outings, which are not too demanding; in the actual competition (which begins in March and lasts through May), all team members contribute during all phases of the event. MBA can field two teams of five members each. To keep the program vital and running Mr. Spiegl intends to keep alternatives and JV candidates beyond just the ten starters.

## Ultimate Steps Out Of The Shadows

by Morey Hill  
Staff Writer

MBA's Ultimate Frisbee team kicked up again in November, still tormented by the team's disappointing third-place finish in the state tournament last spring. This year, however, the team started off with huge potential for success since only a couple of star players graduated from last year's class.

The Ultimate team doesn't have an official season due to the lack of organized high school teams in the area. It has, though, scrimmaged several local teams and had easy victories over teams such as USN (our main/only Frisbee rival), Brentwood High, and MLK. Because of the non-existent regular season, the Frisbee team travels to several college and high school tournaments throughout the spring semester.

The first of these tournaments was two weeks ago at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. MBA, the only high school team at the tournament, was seeded sixteenth out of seventeen teams, and by the second day MBA finished at the top of the B-Bracket. Those aren't stunning results, but consider that the team was playing against teams such as Mississippi State and Auburn and that it lost a couple of heartbreakingly close games on Saturday. MBA played much better on the second day and beat teams such as Tulane and powerhouse Southern Polytech State.

Because the MBA Ultimate Frisbee team, sadly, has no fan base and no highlight videos shown in assembly, the stars of the team often go unnoticed.

The team of fourteen that traveled to Tuscaloosa included seniors Ben Crownover and Morey Hill, juniors Baker Mulherin, Matt Ratcliffe, Zach Brickner, Leland Howe, Ian Preston, Brandon Dockery, and Will Holt, sophomore Sam Moxley, and freshmen Andrew Powell, Mason Foote, Mitchell Shope, and Cody

Fisher. Some missing, key players included Matt Wieck, Andy Lustig, Will Hannon, Ryan King, and Clay Johnson. Overall, over thirty students regularly attended practices this year, and the group of about fifteen freshmen that came out this year indicates the growing popularity of Frisbee at MBA.

Coach Roderick Russ is the only coach of the team, yet he manages to run a fairly tight ship (for a Frisbee team). First of all, the team practices in the wind, rain, sleet, and snow. Since practices go from November to February, the team has seen temperatures ranging from twenty to eighty degrees. So, after bundling up at MBA, the athletes drive to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street fields and run a couple of laps around the field to warm up. They then throw the Frisbee with a partner to improve basic throwing and catching skills. After that the guys split up and do any number of different Frisbee drills for about forty-five minutes. At the end of practice, they sometimes find time to scrimmage before going home.

After-school practices have ended, but some of the most important tournaments are coming up this spring. The team will travel to Talladega on February 23-24 for the annual Mudbowl tournament and then to Lexington, Kentucky for a tournament on March 8-9. All Frisbee tournaments are fun, but the most important one is the Tennessee State Tournament on April 26-27 in Chattanooga. This team has a great chance for victory at this tournament, and hopefully it will bring home MBA's first Ultimate Frisbee trophy ever.

If you have never played Ultimate Frisbee, try it. If you want to watch the MBA team play, keep a *heads up* for possible scrimmages with USN or Hume-Fogg this spring.

"Ultimate is fun." –Coach Russ



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Zach, Ian, and Morey at a match in Tuscaloosa



## MBA Swims To 2<sup>nd</sup> In The State

by Pat Killian

Staff Writer

The MBA Varsity Swimming and Diving Team finished off an extremely successful season at the State Championships on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. MBA's team in the tournament, with 17 swimmers, was one of the largest participating at the annual event, held at the Centennial SportsPlex this year. MBA had eight swimmers place in the top sixteen (to score points) and ten top-eight finishes.

Senior Curtis Lovelace won both of his events, setting new meet and team records in the 100-yard breaststroke (in which he recorded the fastest time in the nation) and the 200-yard IM (individual medley). The 200 IM record was previously held by 2000 MBA graduate Chris Kellam. Curtis additionally was named the TISCA (Tennessee Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association) Male Swimmer of the Year for his performance at the meet.

Freshman Chase Lovelace spectacularly placed second in both the 100 breast and the 200 IM (earning automatic All-American times in both events), and freshman Jarvis Werkhaven was seventh in both these events. The breaststroke and IM were the most dominant events for MBA, as nearly 100 points were scored among the three swimmers (Lovelace, Lovelace, and Werkhaven) competing in them.

Junior Paschall Davis sprinted to two third-place finishes, in the 50- and 100-yard freestyles. Paschall achieved an All-American "Consideration" time for his time in the 100. Sophomore Jack Murfee was 13<sup>th</sup> in the 50 free, and

achieved an automatic All-American time during his 4<sup>th</sup>-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Sophomores Pat Killian (9<sup>th</sup> in the 100 free and 16<sup>th</sup> in the 200 free) and Seth Akers-Campbell (13<sup>th</sup> in the 500 free) also individually scored points for the Big Red.

In addition, the 200-yard Medley Relay (Murfee, two Lovelaces, and Davis) placed second with an automatic All-American time. The 200 free relay of Werkhaven, Chase Lovelace, Rob Higham, and Pat Killian swam to a strong 6<sup>th</sup>-place finish. At the end of the meet, MBA's 400-yard freestyle relay (Curtis Lovelace, Killian, Murfee, and Davis) achieved a strong third-place finish, recording an automatic All-American time and setting a new team record.

Overall, the team swam to a second-place finish - its highest ever in the state meet - with 250 points. The Big Red finished behind Baylor School (377 points), and just ahead of Brentwood High School (225 points). Following the top three teams were The McCallie School (180), Franklin High School (170), and Science Hill High School (164).

Despite the loss of seniors Tyler Ramsden and Curtis Lovelace, the Big Red still looks to be strong next year with a wealth of young talent and a strong entering freshman class.

Congratulations to Coaches Mike Dobbs and Jeff Trembley for producing such a successful season in which so many swimmers achieved state cuts (including 6 non-year-round swimmers) and for propelling the team to an amazing perfect dual meet record, Region championship, and second-place finish at State.



Pat and Alvin after the Region Meet

## Amazing Animals!

by Sally Mehio

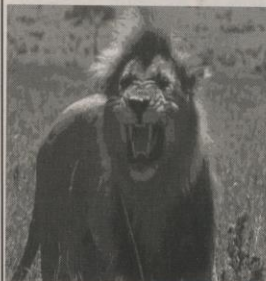
Staff Writer

### Black Bear:

Can move at speeds of up to 30 mph (even though it can weigh 800 lbs!)  
Has a blue tongue!

Its color isn't always black; some have white, dark brown, light brown, and blonde fur (these are found mostly west of the Mississippi River - the ones with black fur usually live in the East and up North in Canada).

It does not truly hibernate like other bears. It has been known to get up during the middle of its winter sleep.



### Lion:

Lions can't roar until they are 2 years old. You can hear a lion roar 5 miles away! Lions feed every 3 - 4 days. Can run at up to 50 miles per hour, stands only about 4 feet tall, and weighs between 330 - 530 lbs.

### Great White Shark:

Can go up to 3 MONTHS without eating! Its circulatory system is 3 - 5 degrees Celsius higher than those of other sharks. This is meant to accelerate digestion and increase muscular power and stamina. Gives birth to live pup, unlike other sharks.

Can grow up to 24 feet long, has roughly 3000 teeth (which it loses and replaces incredibly quickly), weighs about 2.5 tons, and still swims up to 25 miles an hour.



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## MBA Loses Alumnus Lane Denson



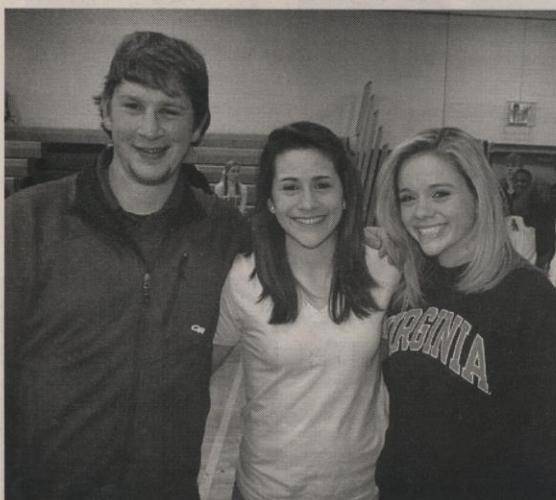
Lane at football practice in August, 2007

MBA mourns the loss of Lane Denson, MBA Class of 2003, who returned to MBA this fall to help manage the football team. Lane was a kind person, beloved by all. No one gave more energy or love to the school than did Lane, while a student and an alumnus. As is true for all of us, so too for Lane,

*Non omnis moriar*

(Not all of me will die). ~Horace  
Lane will be remembered by everyone at Montgomery Bell Academy.

Brad Gioia, Headmaster, asks us all to express our care, thoughts, prayers, and love for Lane and his family.



Lane at MBA basketball game in February, 2008



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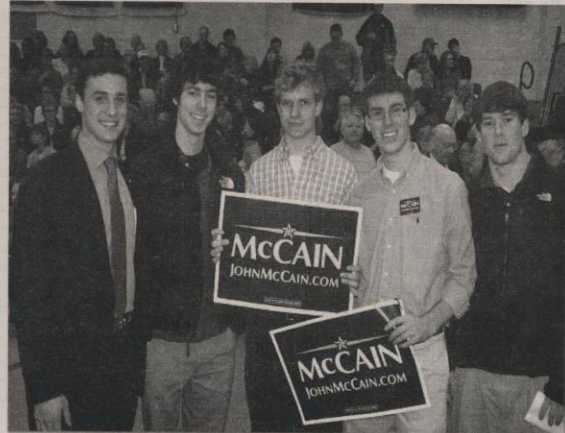
Saturday 10 to 6



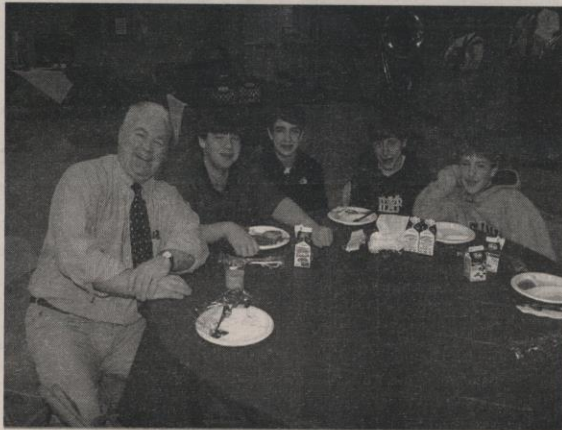
## Recent Events at MBA



Cheerleaders at the Winter Sports Palooza



Seniors Tyler, Mason, Daniel, and Clay at the McCain rally



Mr. Morrison shares Pancake Breakfast with students



A scene from Dr. Seay's *The Hobbit*

---

Mr. Morrison directs *The Visit*,  
which runs from February 21st-24th,  
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# Stats

compiled by Kyle Brantley

## Hockey

### GNASH Gold Regular Season Rankings

Team	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Ravenwood	17	0	1	110	15	35
Pope John Paul II	16	1	1	127	19	33
Montgomery Bell Acad	12	5	1	80	49	25
Independence-Page	11	4	3	91	55	25
Father Ryan	11	5	2	90	58	24
Centennial	9	7	2	79	72	20
Brentwood	9	7	2	74	58	20
Hendersonville	7	8	3	72	60	17
Mt Juliet	7	11	0	59	67	14
Hume Fogg-BGA	5	11	2	46	83	12

#	Player	G	A	PTS
17	Chris Fike	21	9	30
5	Crawford Standard Jr.	14	13	27
9	Eddie Lang IV	15	5	20
14	David Dalton	6	13	19
24	Zach Turner	3	16	19
6	Robinson Hunt	7	11	18
7	Bailey Brandon	1	10	11
16	Lee Srebnick Jr.	3	7	10
3	Max Coyle	2	7	9
10	Rob Broadhurst	2	5	7

#	Goalie	MINS	GAA	TGA	SHT	SVS
1	Nick Bessette	356.0	3.19	27	201	174
33	Alex Austin	306.7	2.60	19	135	116

1<sup>st</sup> Round of Playoffs- MBA 6, Brentwood 2

2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Playoffs- MBA @ JP II—Feb. 20, 6:40pm—Southern Ice

## Basketball

### Big Red Regular Season (14-10)

Date	Winner	Loser
Nov. 27	MBA 66	Ezell-Harding 34
Nov. 30	MBA 43	Culleoka 34
Dec. 4	David Lipscomb 57	MBA 40
Dec. 7	MBA 59	Knoxville Webb 48
Dec. 10	Glenclyff 70	MBA 62
Dec. 14	MBA 46	BGA 43
Dec. 20	Wilson Central 61	MBA 53
Dec. 21	MBA 50	White House-Heritage 35
Dec. 27	Hendersonville 55	MBA 28
Dec. 28	MBA 59	Portland 48
Jan. 4	Father Ryan 46	MBA 43
Jan. 5	Dickson Co. 47	MBA 37
Jan. 8	Pope John Paul II 54	MBA 53
Jan. 11	Ensworth 66	MBA 55
Jan. 15	MBA 58	USN 34
Jan. 18	MBA 55	BGA 45
Jan. 19	MBA 46	Dickson Co. 35
Jan. 22	MBA 46	BA 41
Jan. 26	MBA 32	McCallie 27
Jan. 29	MBA 56	Father Ryan 44
Jan. 31	MBA 46	JP II 44
Feb. 2	MBA 64	Baylor 55
Feb. 5	Ensworth 43	MBA 39
Feb. 8	BA 70	MBA 46

Leading Scorer- Holden Mobley- 11.9 Avg, 285 Points

Leading 3-Point Shooters-

1. Holden Mobley 19 3PM, 0.8 AVG
2. Austin Bennett 10 3PM, 0.5 AVG
3. William Davis 7 3PM, 0.3 AVG



## Swimming

Holden's free throw vs. BA

Region Winners and State

Runner-Ups

State Records-

Curtis Lovelace- 100 Breaststroke- 54.88 sec  
Curtis Lovelace- 200 IM- 1:49.07

## Football

MBA players that inked with colleges on National Signing Day:

Preston Bailey—Tennessee  
Ben Bartholomew—Tennessee  
Dane Daniels—Cumberland  
E.J. Vinsang—Furman  
Nate Wade—Furman



William, Nathan, and Austin address the audience